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Happy New Year

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.	S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.	S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.
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OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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Best Wishes For 1949

Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

THE death of Mrs. F. G. Spencer, which took place so suddenly in her home in Saint John, was a great shock to her family and will be sad news to so many friends of Mr. Spencer and his family. There is left to mourn beside Mr. Spencer two sons, F. Gordon and Gerald R. Mrs. Spencer was possessed of a beautiful contralto voice and for many years sang in the choir of Centenary — Queen Square Church as well as giving of her talent to many concerts for charitable purposes. A lover of flowers, Mrs. Spencer was also known for having raised the only peach-growing tree in New Brunswick and from her lovely garden at Ononette, friends were given many lovely bouquets of the blooms. Devoted to her home, to her Church, a member of the Ladies Morning Musical Club and the deMonts Chapter, I.O.D.E., Mrs. Spencer will be greatly missed.

The funeral was held from the home on Douglas Avenue, Saint John, and was attended by theatre and film men of the City as well as by many from the Spencer Chain of theatres in the Maritimes. The floral tributes were numerous and much sympathy for the family is being expressed both individually and by wires and letters. The Strand Theatre, Saint John, was closed all day on the date of the funeral.

* * *

Harry Kaufman, Toronto, General Sales manager for Cardinal Films was in Saint John and was in conference with Lew McKenzie, local manager. Mr. Kaufman is most enthusiastic over "The Life of Mozart" which he screened in Saint John as well as "Harpoon" which he feels will be popular in the Maritimes.

Christmas bells were ringing in Saint John where last week the Paramount Theatre was showing "The Miracle of the Bells" while the Strand Theatre had "The Bells of San Fernando."

* * *

The case regarding smoking in the Paramount Theatre, Saint John, came up before Judge Barry and was adjourned for further evidence and information regarding fire prevention regulations. It will be again heard December 21st. F. Harrison Howe, manager of the Paramount Theatre (Famous Players) gave evidence on behalf of the theatre.

* * *

RKO had a screening of Walt Disney's "So Dear To My Heart" which they feel surpasses all the grand pictures made by this master of fantasy and appeal. At this exchange (Harry Cohen, manager) the Ned Depinet Drive started Dec. 17th and dates and contracts are pouring in in gratifying numbers.

* * *

In his address at the Film and Theatres party, Frank C. Owens, chairman of the Board of Censors for New Brunswick, emphasized the fine co-operation and friendly spirit which exists between the Board and the Exchanges. Regret was expressed at the absence of F. G. Spencer and his sons Gordon and Gerald. Your correspondent spoke very sincerely of the assistance and kindness received from all in the Industry towards her as Digest correspondent and in a conversation was told of the wide and careful reading given this Trade paper by exhibitors throughout the Maritimes and the value placed on its opinions and comments.

"Prairie News"

By BRUCE PEACOCK

WORKMEN have erected a walling around the front of the Metropolitan theatre in Regina to begin a \$17,000 remodelling job. Present plans call for a new marquee and a remodelled lobby. At the Capitol, the side-walls are coming down to reveal a big new flashy sign. For several weeks, work has been under way on a \$20,000 job which includes a new entrance and marquee.

* * *

Mother of two Regina projectionists, Mrs. W. J. Moran, 80, died in a Regina hospital on Dec. 11, after a long illness. Michael P. Moran is an operator at the Capitol and Francis A. "Bert", is an operator at the Met.

Each year the Film Christmas Party is a greater success than the previous one and this one was a very lovely affair. Held in the ballroom of the Admiral Beatty hotel, the tables were aglitter with decorations and filled with over a hundred guests, representing Film Exchanges, Theatres, Sound Equipment, Censor Board and the Trade Papers. The addresses were brief, clever and hearty, the floor show excellent and the dance which followed was much enjoyed by all.

The Committee responsible for the fine entertainment consisted of Lewis Michaelson (Empire Universal) who acted as Chairman, Maurice Elman (Alliance Films) and Jack Bellamy (International Films). At the head table beside the committee members were: F. C. Owens, chairman of the N.B. Board of Censors; Lee April, Odeon; James Mitchell, Capitol Theatre; J. Tagg, Dominion Sound; Flora Thurston, Warners; Inez McKinney, Empire-Universal; and Alice L. Fairweather, Canadian Moving Picture Digest. Arnold Watson of RKO, a well-known entertainer, was M.C. for the floor show and Morris Watson was pianist. Bill Metz of the Spencer Company took photographs. Miss Helen Crowley spoke for the Spencer Company.

The party was made possible by the Saint John film managers, most of whom were present and the theatres, Famous Players, Odeon, Franklin-Herschorn and B & L Theatres. Thanks were expressed to all who made the party possible and to the Committee who worked so very hard on the arrangements.

A visitor in Saint John last week was Eddie Finnigan of the Marina Theatre, St. Andrews, N.B. . . Christmas parties were held at various Film Exchanges, the Paramount and M.G.M. being held at the Royal Hotel after which a screening of "Julia Misbehaves" was given. After the Columbia affair, a screening of "Return of October" was enjoyed. Empire-Universal, Warners and RKO also held staff gatherings . . . Santa Claus made personal appearances at the Spencer Company's Theatres at Amherst, N.S. and at Charlottetown, P.E.I.

MGM Will Shoot "Royal Hawaiian" in '49

Van Johnson and Esther Williams together again — co-starred in an important new production, "Royal Hawaiian" — that is the announcement by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios. This marks the first reunion of the popular duo since their record-breaking "Thrill of a Romance."

Producer Joe Pasternak, who came up with the story idea while vacationing in Honolulu last year, has assigned Dorothy Cooper and Jerry Davis to the screenplay.

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RAY PRESENTS



ON Thursday morning, Rowland (Roly) Young died at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, following a heart attack from which he suffered the previous night. He was walking through the lobby of the King Edward Hotel when he suddenly slumped to the floor and was rushed to St. Michael's. He appeared cheerful, and told anxious friends not to worry about him. "I'm all right, but worried about my mother," he said, but he gradually grew weaker, and at dawn, the final curtain came down, closing a lifetime of activities in the short span of forty-five years.

Those who knew Roly through his theatre activities, knew him much better than those who only knew him as readers of his *Globe and Mail* morning column, "Rambling With Roly," for Roly was a theatre enthusiast and devoted many years of his life to stimulating theatre interest in Canada, staging shows and promoting the Civic Theatre Association of which he was the enthusiastic and prime organizer.

THOSE who knew Roly well were conscious of the fact that he had very strong likes and dislikes, and that he was never reluctant about expressing his feelings. He had a more than ordinary sense of humour and while he assumed a certain cynicism, Roly was at heart very sentimental, and went to considerable trouble to help those whom he really liked.

He made enemies, because his pen was as sharp as his tongue, but those who knew Roly intimately had an affection for him, and passed lightly over the criticisms levelled in his direction.

Some have said that Roly disliked children, but this is not an accurate summing up of his character, despite the fact, that he had little patience for precocious child stars, and revealed an impatience in his comments concerning them.

AT times he merely filled his column, and frankly told his readers that he was salvaging bits and pieces from the waste-paper basket, or from among the many letters which he received, both those who wrote in praise of his comments and those who disagreed with him as strongly as he disagreed with their viewpoint. Many of his columns were brilliantly written, and read by thousands; and regardless of whether his review of a picture or a play was in praise of it or in condemnation, what he had to say made an impression at the box-office.

I knew Roly as a friend, and his death was a personal shock to me. I knew him through his many years of struggle to take care of his mother, his concern about her several serious illnesses, his economic difficulties in keeping the home at Rouge Hills which he had actually helped build, log by log; and it gives me comfort to know that I never became "hard-boiled" with regard to Roly, that I was able to do him a good turn only a few days before his death, and that the last words I heard Roly say to me, at the Associated Screen's invitation showing of "Highlights of 1948," was "God Bless You, Ray."

That "God Bless You, Ray," is a precious memory and, as I approach 1949, I am grateful that it is among the treasures I bring with me with which to greet the New Year.

Roly had tentative plans for a Little Theatre, he had selected a suitable property, he was keen on the location and the theatre's possibilities; and during the period of time in which he attended

first night shows at the Royal Alexandra, screenings of pictures, writing his daily column, reviews on stage shows, on floor-shows, rewriting his Christmas Pantomime and rehearsing it for presentation at Hart House, rushing to Rouge Hills to see that his mother was comfortable and that the home fires were kept burning, Roly was interviewing building contractors, securing estimates, seeking financial support to make a life-long theatre dream come true.

BEFORE the curtain rose on his "Cinderella" pantomime, before the stage was set for his own Little Theatre, the curtain descended with a deadly thud, and Roly was not there to take a curtain call.

His "Cinderella" pantomime and medley of songs and skits has been reported as excellent entertainment. I cannot but feel regretful that Roly is not here to enjoy that satisfaction and the personal pride in its success, but, as is so often said, "Man proposes and God Disposes," a quotation which is a continual reminder to us that Life is not a permanent gift, and that while we have it, we should use it joyfully, gratefully and well.

Roly was born in St. John, N.B., and studied law at the Dalhousie University, but his heart was theatre-bound; and as a student, he wrote some reviews which appeared in the local papers and in some theatre journals. Later he joined the Halifax Dramatic and Musical Club and his interest in Law took second place. Few knew that Roly at one time had operatic ambitions, and possessed a good baritone voice which won him a \$500.00 award, and transportation to New York to study. He toured the United States for a few seasons with a Gilbert and Sullivan company.

ROLY was connected with a Halifax group which promoted the tour of "The Dominoes" and while this company met with some success, it finally, in 1928, folded up, and the company disbanded. Roly came to Toronto where he played a small part with one of Jack Allen's shows and then joined the Toronto Daily Star as a young reporter. It is from this beginning that his interest developed in Motion Pictures and he introduced the "Rambling With Roly" column.

His stage-show enthusiasm remained just as keen and he produced the musical revue, "Chin Up," which included some of the famous Dumbbells cast, touring the country with this show. His next theatrical venture of importance was the, "Celebrity Parade," for which he was engaged by Herbert Wilcox, following an introduction which I arranged for him with Herbert Wilcox and Anna Neagle. You will recall that the "Celebrity Parade" toured Canada sponsored by and for the benefit of, the Air Cadet League.

ROLY managed to cram a life full of activities into his forty-five years, he knew little leisure, he never had time to enjoy the relaxation of being lazy, he was many, many times very tired, but never too tired to talk shop, to search out our first news, to write, plan and promote live stage shows.

In the *Globe and Mail*, Saturday, Dec. 18th, of this year, his column was headed, "Biographies of Stars Stranger Than Fiction" and in it he reviewed briefly the career of Murray Matheson, appearing with Brian Doherty's, "The Drunkard," John Loder, stage and screen star, appearing Dec. 27th, at the Royal Alexandra, with, "O Mistress Mine," and he talked about his own production, "Cinderella."

(Continued on Page 10)

"Agreement", "Belinda", "I Remember Mama" Top Film Daily Poll

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

IN connection with the recent pressure from the Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors with respect to films depicting cruelty and unnecessary brutality, it is interesting to note that the Provincial Board has placed 157 features in the adult entertainment class since the grading of pictures became effective June 1, 1946.

During the 30 months to Dec. 1, an average of five features has been graded "adult" per month which is not exactly a large percentage when the total of all available pictures is considered. But the risk is that classifying of films may grow to greater scope.

For the latest month the following films have been rated "adult" in Ontario: "Kiss the Blood Off My Hands", "Crime Incorporated", "Creeper", "Out of the Storm" and "Road House".

* * *

Canadian Odeon had two theatre openings in Ontario in the pre-Christmas season to wind up its schedule for 1948. The Odeon at Brantford threw open its glass doors Friday night, Dec. 17, with the customary ceremony while the Odeon at St. Thomas had its debut Wednesday night, Dec. 22 in good time for the busy holiday period.

There has also been a further moving of headoffice people, including Larry Graburn and his staff, into the office premises of the Odeon-Toronto Theatre at 22 Carlton Street, Toronto. Construction workers are still engaged at this showhouse in putting on the finishing touches out of sight of theatre patrons.

* * *

The Capitol Theatre in North Toronto played "Paleface" in one of its series of weekly sneak previews and the feature blossomed into the open at the Imperial Theatre downtown for its Christmas attraction.

In connection with the sneak performances each Thursday night, a printed comment card is distributed among the patrons for their candid remarks. If a card is signed by the patron it signifies that the amateur critic is willing to be quoted.

Speaking of sneak showings, the Century Theatre at Hamilton has introduced the stunt and the Ottawa Elgin is also doing it quite often. If memory is correct, it was Manager Howard Elliott of the Fairlawn Theatre, Toronto, who started the preview idea locally.

UA Acquires Two Foreign Films For Canadian Release

These will be the first foreign language films UA has distributed in this country. The Pictures are the French made "Passionelle," and the Swedish "Torment."

The Centre Theatre, Windsor, worked a fresh advertising angle for the sale of Famous Players gift books for Christmas in a delivery service. The public was invited to phone the theatre and the books of tickets were delivered C.O.D. anywhere in the Border Cities.

* * *

A visitor in Ontario was R. G. Lindstrom, a representative of the Sportservice Corp., Buffalo, N.Y., which operates the refreshment concessions in the Skyway Drive-Ins at Hamilton, London and Windsor. These auto theatres were acquired by Famous Players late in the summer.

* * *

The proposed schedule of higher rates of the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada goes into effect Jan. 1 for a period of three years providing the new tariff is approved by the Copyright Appeal Board at Ottawa. There is as yet no word regarding the date for a hearing of the CAPAC application. In the case of the increased fees for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., however, it was mid-summer before the Appeal Board got around to an examination of the broadcasting schedule for the year that was more than half gone.

The performing-rights association proffered a goodwill gesture for the second year when it staged an open house Dec. 15 at its offices, 132 St. George Street, Toronto, to which the exhibitors and other music users were invited as guests for cocktails and other refreshments.

* * *

C. J. Appel, Eastern Division manager of Odeon Theatres (Canada) Limited, paid a visit to Eastern Ontario points including Ottawa where work is proceeding on the completion of a new theatre. Paul Douglas of Eagle-Lion Films of Canada was also covering the territory.

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WILL McLAUGHLIN..... Ottawa, Ont.
BILL PRESS..... Toronto, Ont.

The Brock Theatre at Niagara-on-the-Lake, managed by Dewey McCourt, has gone on a shortened operating schedule for the winter. The theatre is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights, thus skipping Tuesday and Thursday performances... Jack Allen, proprietor of the Tivoli, has announced that midnight shows have been discontinued at his theatre except in conjunction with holidays. The former policy had a midnighter every Sunday.

The Palace Amusement Co., Cornwall, subsidiary of Famous Players, is arranging for the construction of a theatre on Pitt Street in that city, the third for the company there. The architect is H. G. Duerr.

"My Father's House", Israel's first feature film, was run at a midnight show in the Belmont Theatre, Montreal, when the proceeds from the \$1 admission charge were turned over to the Jewish National Fund.

The Famous Players' Imperial is a busy place in the off-shifts of operation with renovators carrying out an extensive job which includes the installation of new seats. The big house will be completely rejuvenated in January.

The Canadian Association for Adult Education has decided to sponsor four film awards to stimulate Canadian creative effort and to assist in elevating the quality of film production in the Dominion. The honors will first be bestowed on domestic films of 1948.

The four categories for the exclusively Canadian Oscars are: first, films for theatrical distribution; second, pictures for non-theatrical use; third, amateur movies; and fourth, a special award for pictures which do not fit into any of the three designated classes.

Details are available from the CAAE secretary, J. R. Kidd, 340 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

(Continued on Page 5)

Born

On December 21st, a daughter, Joan Louise, to Jean and Jay Smith. He's President of Alliance Films Ltd.

Toronto and District

(Continued from Page 4)

The Manitoba branch of the Canadian Picture Pioneers and the Manitoba Motion Picture Theatres Association is turning over some \$500 to MPP Benevolent Fund, according to word received in Toronto. The money represents the proceeds from the sale of advertising in the program for last summer's picnic of the theatres association. It will be a highly-appreciated donation.

Manager Claude Hunter of the Odeon Theatre, Peterborough, had a real holiday gift for members of his Movie Club. It was a complete Saturday-morning show that was on the house — for free. With no admission charge, there was a big turnout of juveniles. In addition to a film program and a singsong, a number of door prizes were handed out.

Telephoto Industries, understood to be a Paul Nathanson enterprise, is established at 1438 Yonge Street, Toronto, having moved from the original address at 1187 Bay Street. . . . The new theatre at Cobourg, Ont., was opened Dec. 22 and is under the management of Mrs. R. J. Harrison who took over the direction of the Cobourg Capitol during the illness of her husband which resulted in his death.

Theatres of Ontario cities and towns, generally, staged Sunday midnight shows in conjunction with Boxing Day. At St. Thomas, the city council discussed the midnight-performance subject in authorizing the observance of Dec. 27 as a public holiday but the members took no stand on the matter. The exhibitors were free to put on a late show if they liked.

The new Paramount Theatre at Peterborough ran into a problem when the local newspaper published the wrong advertisement for a new show. An apology was inserted and probably little damage resulted.

The Toronto Labor Council adopted a resolution of protest against a decision of the Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors to ban "Native Land", a film dealing with the labor movement in the United States.

Michael Kennedy of the United Electrical Workers Union described the action of the censors as "ridiculous", declaring that the explanation from the board was that the picture was "too American".

"The Snake Pit" was given a private screening in Toronto for medical people in advance of release. The much-discussed picture has been booked into some units of 20th Century Theatres and Famous Players.

The Odeon - London Theatre, opened October 22, has added a stage feature in organ recitals by Max Magee. During the engagement of "Frieda" he played request numbers according to the written wishes of patrons. . . . The new Paramount Theatre at Peterborough, opened by Famous Players in November, has a novel structural feature in the form of a screening room which has been made available for private theatre parties who can bring their own films.

Manager Sam Hebscher of the Savoy Theatre, Hamilton, dared to present an "All War Show", the two pictures being "A Walk in the Sun" and "Bell for Adano".

Incidentally, Sam is putting on a weekly stage show in conjunction with the regular screen fare on one night.

The weatherman was unkind for the corner-stone ceremony for the Variety Club's Vocational Guidance School for Crippled Children but the function went ahead under cover with Col. George A. Drew, M.P.-elect, officiating.

Col. F. J. Mead, former deputy commissioner of the RCMP, has been in Hollywood as special consultant for the preliminary studio work on a picture to be made by 20th Century-Fox which will be based on the history of the Mounties.

Manager Wannie Tyers of the Odeon-Toronto showed neighborhood goodwill in permitting the use of the theatre for a religious pageant on Sunday night under the auspices of the Carlton United Church across the street. No admission was charged.

Manager Tom Daley of the Toronto Imperial had a busy period as chairman of the "K" Police Club of the Downtown Kiwanis Club. He gets a real kick out of helping the juveniles. . . . Manager Martin Simpson of the Downtown Theatre, Toronto, used a bannered horse as street ballyhoo for "Adventurers of Gallant Bess". Incidentally that \$1,800 Saturday night holdup at the Downtown caused a switch in the Christmas party, scheduled for late the same night, to the Victoria Theatre.

Romantic Lead for Clift

Montgomery Clift, Hollywood's newest screen sensation, plays his first romantic lead in William Wyler's "The Heiress" at Paramount. Olivia de Havilland plays the title role in this important production.

MGM Singer to Tour Canada

Marina Koshetz has left on the most unusual concert tour of her career. The M-G-M concert singer is touring Canada and will reach some of the remote sections by dogsled.



RKO WESTERN BRANCHES IN TWELFTH ANNUAL NED DEPINET DRIVE
Winnipeg, Vancouver and Calgary Branch Managers and salesmen seen grouped around one of Winnipeg's advance drive displays. On the left from the bottom up are: Arthur Elliott, Calgary manager; Meyer Nackimson, Winnipeg manager; and Jim Rea, Winnipeg salesman. On the right from the top down are: Drive Captain Leo Devaney; Barry Myers, Winnipeg office manager; James Davis, Vancouver Branch manager; and Hugh Hamilton, Calgary salesman. Also at the Drive meetings was Lloyd Muir, Western Canada field representative for RKO.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

THE Canadian Legion intends to get to the bottom of the reason for the ban on the Sunday concert which was to be held recently at the F.P. Orpheum according to Bernie Isman, president of the B.C. command. The benefit was called off when Rev. W. Byers, secretary of the Vancouver Chapter of the Lord's Day Alliance refused to give a letter stating he would not prosecute. "What the Legion wants to know," says Isman "is why the Lord's Day Alliance group doesn't prosecute the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for their Sunday afternoon concerts in the Orpheum Theatre."

* * *

The final history of the Jimmy Durante vaudeville show at Pacific National Exhibition this year had to be written in red ink. The performances showed a loss on the books of \$5,276, but the Shrine Circus brought in \$30,621 net profit and along with a new attendance record and profits from concessions and space rentals, "cracked the nut" for the PNE. A public opinion poll taken by PNE heads showed the circus was preferred 10-1 over Durante by those who saw both shows.

* * *

The downtown Orpheum used plenty of radio time to put over the sale of its Christmas gift tickets, including a "Man on the Street" broadcast in the downtown shopping zone, boosting the Orpheum and at the same time giving people a chance to chip in on the Christmas fund for veterans in the military hospitals. Radio show proved to be a good investment Ivan Ackery, Orpheum manager, reports.

Marjorie Schwartz, former moving picture editor of the Vancouver News-Herald, has resigned and will operate her own publicity office here. She is succeeded at newspaper by Gordon Wilson. Marjorie is handling publicity for headline acts at night clubs.

* * *

Business at most first-runs here showed a decline Christmas week as the shopping and holiday season arrived, majority of grosses on the mild side. "Good Sam" at the Strand and a second week of "Johnny Belinda" at the Orpheum doing the best. "Henry V", on its third and final week at Vogue, did only moderate business.

* * *

Jack Armstrong, manager of the Odeon Theatre at Trail, and his wife Edna have their first child, a boy. Before her marriage, Mrs. Armstrong was on the head office staff in the B.C. district headquarters in Vancouver.

* * *

Another petty racket came to light in Vancouver recently when it was discovered that forged newspaper carrier theatre tickets were being used to gain admission to certain downtown theatres. Ross Jenkins, assistant manager of the Strand Theatre apprehended three teen-age youths responsible for the crime when the trio attempted to gain admission to the house. 52 forged tickets made out to four downtown theatres were confiscated, and Jenkins turned the lads over to police.

* * *

A second theatre being erected by a local milling company at Camrose, Alberta, 40 miles from Edmonton, has been purchased by Arthur Fonteyne and Don Mohler. New movie will seat 475 and is expected to be operating in the New Year. Stan Bailey, veteran exhibitor, has operated the town's only theatre for 20 years.

* * *

Frank Shepherd, who operates the Star Theatre at Armstrong, has rebuilt the old theatre and now has one of the best small-town theatres in B.C. after installing new projection machines and sound, new screen and neon sign. Frank reports that business has increased rapidly in the fruit town since the many changes.

* * *

With the drop in lumber sales to Great Britain, B.C. centres which depend on lumber payrolls say that amusement dollars are being hoarded and that business is away off. Harold Warren, who operates the three theatres in the Alberni zone of Vancouver Island, was in town on a booking trip looking for relief from boom-time film rentals to tide him over until business returns to normal.

Vancouver's newest theatre, planned for the Fraser district, will replace the present Fraser Theatre, and will be ready for audiences by August 1. The old time Fraser is at present being torn down to make way for the new \$80,000 building being erected for Odeon Theatres. Equipment is not included in the contract price. The theatre will be all concrete and will have a new departure in heating and ventilation. New theatre will seat 850, H. H. Simmons, architect, said.

* * *

Jack Hughes, chief of B.C. censors, wishes to correct a news item which appeared in the trade press re "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein." The picture, after a turn down by the censors and the B.C. appeal board, was finally reconstructed and passed by the censor board, not by the Attorney-General as reported.

* * *

Jack Aceman, manager of the East side State Theatre, is back from a Calgary trip. Bill Forward, manager of General Theatre Supply Company, was away on a ten-day trip covering the interior theatres. Douglas Redgrave has been appointed to the post of assistant manager of the Odeon Theatre at Victoria. He was formerly manager of the Oak Bay Theatre in Victoria which Odeon gave up recently.

* * *

Greater Vancouver's movie theatres are throwing their weight behind the United Fund for Britain. All Odeon and Famous Players theatres will show newsreel flashes during regular showings to remind the public of the appeal. Canadian Picture Pioneers' B.C. Division is sponsoring this effort. The scheme was the brain child of J. D. Johnstone, a member of Canadian Picture Pioneers.

COMPLIMENTS
OF THE SEASON

JOHNNY COHN

A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL

CHARLES MAVETY
Mavety Film Delivery Service
CIRCLE "M" RANCH

TRADE HEADLINES

New York Critics Select "Paisan"
Best Foreign Picture

Laurence Olivier and Olivia De Havilland
As the Best Actor and Actress

"Treasure of the Sierra Madre" Best Picture of 1948
And John Huston for Best Director

Industry's January Meet In Hollywood
Will Stress Lowered Production Costs "Or Else"

Boycott Off, British Pictures Will Enjoy
Increased Chain Bookings in the U.S.

Republic Will Make Some High-Budget Pictures

Sir C. Aubrey Smith, 85, Dies In Hollywood

Gunman Robs Downtown Theatre, Toronto
Of Day's Take, \$1,800, at Gunpoint

Kormans Open "New Look" Paramount in Rouyn
Seventh of Chain, In Association With F-P

Hollywood Contributes Half the \$800,000
Capitalization for New Israeli Film Studio

"Gentleman's Agreement" Grosses \$3,900,000
In Domestic Market — 20th's Top Grosser

UI Will Release 28 Top Budget Features in '49
Limiting Production To Top Features Only

Bergman and Crosby Tops in Rural Market
For Third Straight Year — Country Gentleman

20th Divorce Plan Approved — Will Drop 250
Paramount Prepared To Dissolve 500 Partnership

Warner's Starts Indefinite Studio Shutdown

Two Million Dollar PR Effort Ready To Go

CBS In Long Range Plans For Video Films

Selznick and Korda In Reciprocal Exchange Deal
Will Trade Picture For Picture, Keeping Proceeds

Paramount Finds "Receipts Holding Up"
In Quarterly Statement To Stockholders

Quebec Firm Will Dub French Language Films
For English Speaking Distribution

Hal Roach Abandons Pictures, Will Make
Television Productions Exclusively

Columbia Reports Net Loss of \$23,000 for Quarter

Frederic Ullman Jr., RKO-Pathe Pres.
Dies of Heart Attack — Age 45

"Best Years of Our Lives" Voted Top British Hit

Selznick—E-L Deal For 10 Re-Issues
\$750,000 Financing By Boston Bankers

New York Times' "Ten Best" of 1948

This is the time of year for the selection of The Ten Best, and The New York Times' selection is as follows: "Treasure of Sierra Madre," written and directed by John Huston and produced by Henry Blanke for the Warner Bros. The Film Trade concedes the excellence of this picture.

"The Pearl," adapted from a John Steinbeck story, directed by Fernandez and produced by Oscar Dancigers for RKO-Radio. Filmed in Mexico, this picture is a gem. It had its first-run showing at the International Cinema, Toronto, but has not played in Canada sufficiently to reap the favourable public appreciation which it richly deserves.

"The Search" is an original screen story by Richard Schweizer in collaboration with David Wechsler and Paul Jarrico, directed by Fred Zinneman and produced by Lazar Wechsler of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Here again we have an unusual picture with a tremendous appeal and story.

"A Foreign Affair," is the Times next selection among its Ten Best. Written by Charles Brackett, Billy Wilder and Richard Breen, from a story by David Shaw, directed by Wilder, produced by Brackett for Paramount, "A Foreign Affair" is familiar to Canadians for it has played many successful engagements in Canada and was "the talk of the town" when first released.

"Louisiana Story," written by Robert and Frances Flaherty, directed and produced by Flaherty for the Robert Flaherty Productions. Those who are familiar with "Nanook of The North" know that Flaherty is a supreme artist, and that the pictorial beauty of his camera work and material leaves one breathless in admiration.

"Hamlet," the J. Arthur Rank, Laurence Olivier production is another choice, and since this picture is now enjoying a run at the new Odeon Hyland Theatre, following several preview screenings, Canadians will have an opportunity to enjoy and to view the excellence of this production, which is a rare treat.

"Johnny Belinda," another Times' choice, is from a play by Elmer Harris, directed by Jean Negulesco, produced by Jerry Wald for Warner Bros. "Johnny Belinda" had several hold-over weeks in Toronto and from coast to coast the film trade and the public vote it one of the best.

"Apartment For Peggy," written by George Seaton, from a story by Faith Baldwin, directed by Seaton, produced by William Perlberg for Twentieth Century-Fox has been conceded by our Canadians to be a delightful picture containing entertainment values which have registered.

(Continued on Page 10)

The company that leads the industry on Motion Picture Herald's list of Boxoffice Champions and on Variety's Scoreboard of Hits also **LEADS THE INDUSTRY WITH THESE 3 ON FILM DAILY'S 10 BEST POLL!**

**The Best
Picture!**

**"GENTLEMAN'S
AGREEMENT"**

**"SITTING
PRETTY"**

**"Call
NORTHSIDE
777"**

... and New York Critics
select Olivia De Havilland
the Year's Best Actress
for her performance in

"The Snake Pit"

From the company of champions **20th** Century-Fox

* Capital Story *

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

*Christmas Comes But
Once a Year
For Which We're Duly Thankful.
If it Never Came Again
We Would Have
A Bank-Full.
(Also an Oil-Tank Full
and a Cellar-Full)*

But the Uriah Heeps of Show Business are in the minority group and most of us would subscribe to —

*Christmas Comes But
Once a Year
For Which We're Duly Grateful.
But If It Never Came Again
Life Would Sure Be Hateful.*

SO Christmas has passed along and, by the time these notes reach the Digest's "Capital Story", New Year's will be over and show business back to normal. Theatre attendances have been unusually good over the long Holiday week-end, and the only headache now left for theatre managers is the business of trying to balance the family budgets, to build up again their credit balances at the bank.

* * *

The annual get-together party of Ottawa and district theatre managers, their wives, sweethearts and friends, will be held on the evening of Sunday, January 9. This year's affair will be a "progressive party", tentative plans calling for a roll call at the Centre Theatre, dinner at the Glebe, an hour or two of dancing at a "mystery spot", followed by a midnight "sneak" preview at the Elgin. Autobuses will be used to convey the boys and girls from one theatre to the other during the evening.

* * *

Stewart (Stu) Gillespie was in Ottawa for several days to screen his new production for the Pioneer division of Purity Flour before heads of the Dominion Agriculture Department. The subject, filmed in color by Audio Studios of Toronto, dealt interestingly with the business of poultry breeding and egg production. The film was supervised by Gillespie, who is chief of the motion picture branch of McKim Advertising Company.

* * *

Manager Henry Marshall of the Regent Theatre was host to his house staff on Sunday, December 19. It was a pre-Christmas dinner, with turkey and all the trimmings.

* * *

Ernie Warren, manager of the Elgin Dual Theatre, has returned to his desk after having his vermiform appendix removed at Ottawa Civic Hospital. The popular Elgin skipper is taking things the easy way at the moment, but expects to be in full swing again early in the New Year.

Donald (Don) Watts, manager of the Nelson 20th Century Theatre, broke all house records with his recent double-feature bill of "Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven" and "Urubu". Don is also on the receiving end of congratulations from the local managing fraternity on the birth of a baby girl (their first) to Mrs. Watts at Grace Hospital.

Theatres operated by Famous Players, the Odeon Circuit, 20th Century and the independents co-operated on late matinee openings on Christmas Day to give theatre personnel a chance to spend an extra few hours at home with their families. First performances of the Holiday afternoon started at 3 o'clock. * * *

Winston Barron, the "voice" of *Candide* on Paramount News, scooped his competitors again by having the Royal Christening pictures on the Regent Theatre screen before any other newsreel service.

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE

"The Gallant Legion" (Rep.), with William Elliot and Joseph Schildkraut. Also "Daredevils of the Clouds" (Rep.), with Robert Livingston and Mae Clark.

DOWNTOWN

"Adventures of Gallant Bess" (Int'l), Color, with Cameron Mitchell and Audrey Long. Also "16 Fathoms Deep" (Mono.), Color, with Arthur Lake and Lon Chaney.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI

"The Return of October" (Col.), Technicolor, with Glenn Ford and Terry Moore.

FAIRLAWN-DANFORTH

"The Return of Wildfire" (Card.), Sepia-Tone, with Richard Arlen and Patricia Morrison. Also "Jungle Goddess" (Cardinal), with George Reeves and Wanda McKay.

HYLAND

"Hamlet" (EL), with Laurence Olivier and Jean Simmons.

IMPERIAL

"The Paleface" (Par.), Technicolor, with Bob Hope and Jane Russell.

LOEW'S

"The Three Musketeers" (MGM), Technicolor, with Lana Turner and Gene Kelly.

ODEON TORONTO

"Miranda" (EL), with Glynis Johns and Googie Withers.

SHEA'S

"When My Baby Smiles At Me" (20th-Fox), Technicolor, with Betty Grable and Dan Dailey.

UPTOWN

"You Gotta Stay Happy" (UI), with Joan Fontaine and James Stewart.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

2nd week. "The Black Arrow" (Col.), with Louis Hayward and Janet Blair.

IMPERIAL

"Thunderhoof" (Col.), with Preston Foster and Mary Stuart. Also "I Surrender Dear" (Col.), with Gloria Jean and David Street.

LOEW'S

"The Loves of Carmen" (Col.), Technicolor, with Rita Hayworth and Glenn Ford.

ORPHEUM

"Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven" (UA), with Guy Madison and Diana Lynn. Also "Urubu" (UA), with The Vulture People.

PALACE

"Anna Karenina" (20th-Fox), with Vivien Leigh and Ralph Richardson.

PRINCESS

2nd week. "River Lady" (UI), Technicolor, with Yvonne DeCarlo and Dan Duryea.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"Fighting Father Dunne" (RKO), with Pat O'Brien.

MAYFAIR

"The Counterfeiters" (20th-Fox), with John Sutton and Doris Merrick. Also "A Letter for Evie" (MGM), with Marsha Hunt and John Carroll.

PARAMOUNT

"Give My Regards to Broadway" (20th-Fox), Technicolor, with Dan Dailey and Nancy Guild.

STRAND

"Out of the Blue" (Int'l), with George Brent and Virginia Mayo.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"The Secret Land" (MGM), Technicolor, with Men and Ships of the U.S. Navy. Also "No Minor Vices" (MGM), with Dana Andrews and Lilli Palmer.

GAIETY

"Deep Waters" (20th-Fox), with Dana Andrews and Jean Peters.

GARRICK

"Blood and Sand" (20th-Fox Re-Issue), Technicolor, with Tyrone Power and Linda Darnell.

METROPOLITAN

"Mickey" (Int'l), Cinecolor, with Lois Butler and Bill Goodwin. Also "Night Wind" (20th-Fox), with Charles Russell.

ODEON

"Letter from an Unknown Woman" (UI), with Joan Fontaine and Louis Jourdan.

UPTOWN

"Give My Regards To Broadway" (20th-Fox), Technicolor, with Dan Dailey.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"The Luck of the Irish" (20th-Fox), with Tyrone Power and Anne Baxter.

GRAND

"Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" (UI), with William Powell and Ann Blyth.

PALACE

"Station West" (RKO), with Dick Powell and Jane Greer. Also "The Return of Rin Tin Tin" (Int'l), with Donald Woods and Bobby Blake.

STRAND

"Return of the Bad Men" (RKO), with Randolph Scott and Anne Jeffries. Also "Joe Palooka in Winner Take All" (Mono.), with Joe Kirkwood and Elyse Knox.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

"The Luck of the Irish" (20th-Fox), with Tyrone Power and Anne Baxter.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA

"Lulu Belle" (Col.), with Dorothy Lamour and George Montgomery. Also "Coroner Creek" (Col.), Cinecolor, with Randolph Scott.

ORPHEUM

2nd week. "Johnny Belinda" (WB), with Jane Wyman and Lew Ayres.

PLAZA

"Tap Roots" (UI), Technicolor, with Van Heflin and Susan Hayward. Also "The Angry God" (UA), with Alicia Parla.

STRAND

"Good Sam" (RKO), with Gary Cooper and Ann Sheridan.

VOGUE

"Henry V" (UA), Technicolor, with Laurence Olivier.

Odeon Floats 10-Theatre Ontario Subsidiary

The announcement was confirmed last week by the Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., P.C., president of Odeon Limited that Messrs. Fry & Company and Nesbitt Thompson & Company have underwritten and will offer publicly an issue of \$2,500,000 Odeon Limited 4¼% First Mortgage Sinking Fund Bonds, Series "A" dated December 15th, 1948, to mature December 15, 1963. This issue is being offered at 97.25 to yield 4½%.

Odeon Limited is a wholly-owned provincial subsidiary of The Odeon Theatres Canada Limited, which is a member company of the J. Arthur Rank Organization. Odeon Limited has under construction or in actual operation ten theatres in Ontario which will form part of the nation-wide parent chain of 116 theatres. Five of these theatres are in Toronto, including the celebrated Odeon-Toronto theatre and head office building on Carlton Street. The remaining theatres are first runs in London, Ottawa, Port Arthur, Fort William and Brantford. The total seating capacity of those ten theatres is approximately 13,500. All of these theatres have been built since the war — eight of them are already in operation, the two remaining to be opened in early 1949.

Directors and chief executive officers of Odeon Limited are the same as those of the parent Canadian company: J. Arthur Rank, chairman; The Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., president and managing director; Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., and George W. Peters, vice-presidents; John Davis, D. C. Coleman, J. S. Duncan and H. P. Green, K.C., directors. G. H. Sprague, C.A., is

treasurer and Alan E. Robinette, secretary.

This is the first public financing undertaken by the J. Arthur Rank interests in Canada.

TIMES' 10 BEST

(Continued from Page 7)

"The Red Shoes," written, directed and produced by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger for J. Arthur Rank, has not yet had its premiere showing in Toronto. There have been some preview screenings, and those of us who were fortunate enough to see "Red Shoes" are enthusiastic in its praise. "A wonderful picture" is all we can say of it and we only hope that it will receive the support which it deserves. If the public does not like "Red Shoes," not only like, but demand seats to see it, we will be obliged to join those who say, "The Public Be Damned."

"The Snake Pit" is the tenth selection, screen play by Frank Partos and Millen Brand from the novel by Mary Jane Ward, directed by Anatol Litvak and produced by Litvak and Robert Bassler for Twentieth Century Fox.

The next ten has this list of selections, "Sitting Pretty," which for us, in Canada, was tops, "I Remember Mama," another winner, "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," "All My Sons," "The Big Clock," "Fort Apache," "Sorry, Wrong Number," "Red River," "June Bride" and "Joan of Arc."

The foreign language pictures were classified separately, Bosley Crowther stating that, "they are in a class by themselves."

Times' Thomas Pryor Picks Ten Worst of '48

Pryor has a right to his own opinion, but we are still puzzled at the differences of opinion, as expressed by critics, and by us in the Film Trade. How different is the public reaction to pictures which a critic may review as bad.

In The Ten Worst listed in the New York Times there are, "Arch of Triumph," "The Iron Curtain," "Winter Meeting," "The Miracle of The Bells," "Homecoming," "Anna Karenina," "Loves of Carmen," "Good Sam," "Tap Roots," and "Dream Girl."

All of these pictures have played or are playing Canada, and among them are some outstanding box-office successes, which will induce exhibitors to say of many of them, "If they are the Ten Worst, may we never have worse pictures, and may we always have as good box-office."

Series Title Chosen For PR Short Subjects

"The Movies and You" has been selected as the title for the All-Industry Film Series, it was announced today by the Motion Picture Industry Film Project Committee.

The first short subject in the series, "Let's Go To The Movies," will be released by RKO Radio on March 1. Other one-reelers about the motion picture industry will be distributed thereafter by the company which produced them, at the rate of one every two months.

The films were prepared by the Industry Film Project Committee, of which Y. Frank Freeman is chairman, in cooperation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The committee includes representatives of all branches of the film industry.

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

The last article written by Roly appeared in the *Globe and Mail* Christmas morning, written shortly before the fatal attack which he had on Thursday night. It is captioned, "Behind The Footlights" and it starts with, "I think Santa Claus is a fake!" But since Roly really believed in the spirit of Santa Claus, he adds, "Well, not altogether." Then follows a plea that Santa Claus, with the help of all of us, should see to it that Canadian talent, in all branches got their stockings well-filled.

Cheerio, Roly, I hope there is a Santa Claus in Heaven and that he will be particularly good to you; and although I have never heard of stockings in that Kingdom, a couple of wings could, if fastened together, cradle many benefits for you.

I AM not cheerful about this Ray Presents which closes the year of 1948, for I regret to have to report the death of a Pioneer and Showman, Al Ritchie, manager of the Bloor Theatre, Toronto, who died following a heart attack last Saturday.

The words of that dearly beloved song, "I'm Dreaming

Of A White Christmas," are singing themselves to their finale, "And May All Your Christmases Be White."

Good-Bye Old Year, please forgive me for interjecting sad notes into the last 1948 Ray Presents. If I had the power I would give to all of us, long life, good health, economic equilibrium, ripe and loyal friendships, happy and congenial work, adequate leisure and the capacity to enjoy it and above all, peace, national and international good-will. But without the power of making these things come true, I can, as you can, wish and pray for them, and in such wish and prayer, who knows the extent of our power?



ALLIANCE FILMS LIMITED

PROUDLY PRESENTS

An Outstanding Box-Office Attraction

IT'S THE FUNNIEST, CORNIEST, SCREEN SHOW IN YEARS!

110 GIDDY-GLOWING GOLDEN MINUTES OF ENTERTAINING MOVING PICTURES OF THE LUSH OLD GAS-LIGHT DAYS!

Joseph E. Levine
presents

GASLIGHT FOLLIES

YOU'LL WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT CHUCKLING AT THE FUN OF IT!

EAST LYNNE

A POIGNANT DRAMA... HILARIOUSLY NARRATED BY MILTON CROSS and ETHEL OWEN

COME AND HISS THE VILLAIN

THE DRUNKARD

A STAGGERING MELLOW DRAMA
With the Same Cast as Has Been Playing 13 Years in Los Angeles

It has 'em all

100 STARS

MARY PICKFORD
RUDOLPH VALENTINO
MARIE DRESSLER
WALLACE REID
CLARA BOW
LON CHANEY
THEODORE ROBERTS
COLLEEN MOORE
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS
MARION DAVIES
POLA NEGRI
MABEL NORMAND
CHARLIE CHAPLIN
WM. S. HART

and Those SWEET ADELIN SONGS

PLUS
UP-TO-THE-MINUTE
NEWS OF 30 YRS. AGO
See
TIME MARCHES
Narrated by
JOHN B. KENNEDY
BACK!

A SWEET REMINDER OF THE DEAR OLD PAST

Alliance Films Limited

MONTREAL
5975 Monkland Avenue
ELwood 1275

SAINT JOHN
162 Union Street
3-3877

TORONTO
277 Victoria Street
ADelaide 2872

WINNIPEG
303 Donalds Block
9-8330

VANCOUVER
1209 Granville Street
TAAlow 2148

Paramount told New York



of the 715 PICTURES
that have played the Paramount in the past
22 YEARS, not one has received
such sensationally enthusiastic first-night
AUDIENCE RAVES as these
unedited written comments from moviegoers
on **'MISS TATLOCK'S MILLIONS'**

Robert M. Stewart
Managing Director

"Funniest picture I've ever seen. In other words Terrific!"
"The funniest picture I have seen in years, should be seen by everyone."
"Never saw anything I enjoyed more."
"Very funny and probably the funniest picture I have ever seen without Bob Hope"
"Intriguing and unusual plot."
"Wonderfully directed. Lund convincing and cast suited to parts. More pictures like this."
"Tatlock's Millions" very humorous but could have been shorter, John Lund new comedy sensation."
"The more like this, the better."
"John Lund terrific. Should have been cut about twenty minutes."
"Amusing with fine action."
"Great!"
"John Lund is terrific—beats them all."

"It is the best and funniest picture I have seen in a long, long time."
"Most hilarious picture of the year, couldn't stop laughing."
"Very good comedy."
"Fitzgerald and Lund prove their popularity again, Wanda Hendrix a coming star."
"Best picture of the year."
"Wanda Hendrix best new star of 1948, Lund up to standard of 'Foreign Affair,' Good direction. Could have been funnier but has more heart than usual fare."
"Funniest comedy I've seen in a long, long time."
"Enjoyed it very much. Haven't laughed in weeks."
"Very entertaining and funny."
"Good comedy, heart-warming."
"Was amusing and interesting."
"Wanda's the best yet."

No wonder 84,682 happy patrons
have seen this 22nd Anniversary Show!!

Paramount presents
JOHN LUND · WANDA HENDRIX
BARRY · MONTY
FITZGERALD · WOOLLEY
in
"Miss Tatlock's Millions"

Screenplay by
Charles Brackett
and Richard L. Breen
Suggested by a play
by Jacques Deval

with
ILKA CHASE · ROBERT STACK · DOROTHY STICKNEY · ELIZABETH PATTERSON
Produced by CHARLES BRACKETT · Directed by RICHARD HAYDN

DOORS OPEN 8:30 A.M.
PARAMOUNT
TIME SQUARE • Midnight Feature

in Person
STAN KENTON
And His Orchestra
Featuring
JUNE CHRISTY
plus
RED BUTTONS
RAUL & EVA REYES
Extra Added Attraction
NELLIE LUTCHER